

TITLE OF SCRIPT: "JOHN FITCH"
TITLE OF SERIES: "THE NEW JERSEY CAVALCADE"
PLAYING TIME: THIRTY MINUTES

"JOHN FITCH"

<u>MUSIC</u>	<u>THREE</u> (UP & UNDER & HOLD)
ANNOUNCER	The New Jersey Cavalcade!
<u>MUSIC</u>	<u>THREE</u> (SWELL & FADE UNDER FOLLOWING:
ANNOUNCER	Station W.T.N.J. presents The New Jersey Cavalcade, a series of dramatizations portraying people and events significant in New Jersey's history, prepared by the New Jersey Writers' Project of the Works Projects Administration. The script for this program was written by Hughes Allison, a Project staff member, and is produced by the W.T.N.J. Radio Theater Workshop.

MUSIC

THREE "B" (UP & UNDER FOLLOWING:)

ANNOUNCER

(FADE IN) The path of progress is strewn with the shattered hopes of men whose names lie buried in dusty records. Bright dreams of a better world, conceived in humble garrets and crude laboratories, have often been brought to reality by more fortunate late-comers, whose fame has obscured the memory of their predecessors. Such is the story behind the steamboat, the first link in the chain of modern commerce....

(MUSIC IS OUT)SOUND(FADE IN) (AWAY IN DISTANCE) CHUGGING OF STEAMBOAT.

(SUSTAIN)

ANNOUNCER

It is August 20, 1807. Two men are standing on a wharf (FADE) at Albany peering down the Hudson River....

SOUND(AWAY IN DISTANCE) STEAMBOAT WHISTLE.OSILLEN

(FADE IN QUICKLY) There she is!

MAN

WHERE? You mean that big tub with flags flying!

(GASPS) Lord, I

OSILLENMAN

Look at the ~~smoke~~ *smoke pouring out of her. She's on fire!*

OSILLEN

(DISDAINFULLY) Smoke! (SHORTS) That's steam. That there craft, mister, is a steamboat. Steam is what has brought her up the Hudson from New York to Albany in two days.

BOY (AWAY) (CALLING) Hey!....here comes Robert Fulton's crazy boat, the Clermont. They say she runs by steam and don't need sails. (GUFFAW)

OGILBYE (INTERIORS TO HIMSELF) Little fool!

WOMAN (AWAY) (INDIGNANTLY AS OGILBYE SPEAKS ABOVE LINE) A boat pulled by steam! Whoever heard of such a thing? I don't believe it!

OGILBYE (SOMEWHAT EXASPERATED) There you are! Let folks see a wonder with their own eyes....and still they don't believe it's there!

MAN What wonder?

OGILBYE You'd have to be a dreamer to understand.

MAN Dreamer! (SHORTS) You mean a lunatic!

OGILBYE No! I mean dreamer. That's what John Fitch was. And Fulton's Clermont....is Fitch's dream come true. Why I remember....oh! it was over twenty years ago....John (FADE) Fitch and I were....

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

OGILBYE (FADE IN) Come along, John. Why do you lag behind on such a beautiful Sunday morning?

JOHN Sorry, Ogilbee. But I can't be a-walking any faster. This rheumatism in my back has got me feeling like a boil ready to bust.

SOUND FADE IN & OUT QUICKLY HORSES PULLING CARRIAGE.

OGILBEE (SYMPATHETICALLY) Oh! So, it's your back again. I'm....(BREAKS OFF SPEECH TO YELL WARNING) Watch where you're walking, John!

JOHN (TELLING AFTER FAST PADING CARRIAGE) Hey there! Don't be running a body down with ye fine horses and carriage! Gol-dern this old back of mine!

OGILBEE Quit your yelling! Have you forgotten? It's Sunday! This is a Pennsylvania town....full of Quakers too! And they're particular about who makes noise here on the Lord's day. (SLIGHT PAUSE) Well! Come on, man. Stop standing there staring.

JOHN (OFF ON AN IDEA THE OTHER CANNOT IMMEDIATELY GRASP) You know, Ogilbes....this is a great country. (HARMLY) I mean a great country. (SIGNS) And I should know. I've traveled miles of it. It....it's a vast, roving land of great forests and....and mighty rivers. Why....

OGILBEE (BREAKING IN IMPATIENTLY) Yes, John. Yes! I've seen your map of it. (EXASPERATED) But what's all this got to do with.... (SHORTS WITH EXASPERATION)

JOHN With cripples like me and....and fine rigs like that 'un rolling off yonder? (DISDAINFULLY) Well....what use is a cripple and a carriage in a great new land?

OGILBEE There you go, John! Your mind hops about like a frog on a hot stove. (SIGNS) The trouble with you, John, is you've too many talents. You're a surveyor. You can draw maps. But you won't stick to one thing! Now...why don't you go back to the trade of gunsmith?

CGILBEE
(CONT'D)

Even though we're at peace....we still need guns to hunt with.

JOHN

I know, but.... Aw, Cgilbees!....you don't understand. I'm not thinking of myself. I'm thinking of this country....a place where there's room for millions of people. You know, sooner or later.... we've got to get out and tame that vast wilderness beyond the Alleghenies. Why! man alive!....if you could only see the....the Mississippi for instance. John, you....

CGILBEE

JOHN

(INTERRUPTING) Now, there's a river that makes the Delaware look like a frog puddle! And who knows what's on the other side of it? Sure....there's lumber and furs. But maybe there's gold and other metals there too. Those are the things that are going to make this country.

CGILBEE

Obviously, John. Why do you think the English tried to hold on to this land!

JOHN

(COMPLETELY IGNORING THE COMMENT) This country isn't going to be developed by shop-keepers and blacksmiths huddled together on the seaboard! The people have got to get out into the wilderness. But they can't do it on foot....or with horses. The country's too big. Too big! We need.... (STOPS SHORT) (HE HAS AN IDEA NOW)

CGILBEE

(A BIT CONTEMPTUOUSLY) Yes, I imagine there're quite a few things we need. (SARCASTICALLY) One of them's money.

JOHN (ECSTATICALLY) Steam! That'll do it. Steam!
 OGILBEE (GIVES UP) Oh Lord....there you go again! What's
 steam got to do with it.
 JOHN Why haven't I thought of it before! Steam will get
 (FADE)
 men over those mountains.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

SCENE (AWAY BUT HEARER THAN IN FIRST SCENE & SUSTAIN
 DURING FOLLOWING NARRATION) (CHUGGING OF STEAM BOAT.
 OGILBEE (FADE IN) John Fitch had talked to me before of this
 wonderful new power which had been discovered in Eng-
 land by a man named Watts. Now all the reading he had
 done on the subject of steam was beginning to take shape
 in John's mind. Steam meant power. Power could be
 transformed into motion. Motion could be accelerated,
 resulting in speed. And speed was needed to weld the
 the continent together. John drew up some plans of a
 (FADE)
 steam engine and....

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

OGILBEE (FADE IN) John....how on earth were you able to draw
 a design of this contraption you say will pull a
 carriage?

JOHN Oh, I forgot to tell you Ogilbee. I've discarded steam
 for use on land. A steam boat is the best vehicle in
 which to use this new power.

OGILBEE But where-ever did you see....

JOHN (INTERRUPTING) Reverend Irwin showed me a book just come from England which had a diagram of a steam engine developed by a gentleman named Newcomen.

OGILBEE I see!

JOHN But Newcomen's steam engine is a static contraption.... wasn't built to propel a boat. So....as you can see from my plans....I've made a few changes that'll do the trick.

OGILBEE But John....making a steam boat will cost money. Lots of money! And where on earth will you get money?

JOHN Well....there's my map. Now's the time to sell copies of it. Folks going west will need it to find their way over the Alleghenies.

OGILBEE Good Lord, John! You don't think you can sell enough maps to pay for a contraption like this....do you?

JOHN (PAUSE) Don't know. But it's worth trying.

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE

OGILBEE (PAUSE IN) Well, John....now you've tried and tried. But man, it's impossible to finance this venture through the sale of your maps! You've got to seek money elsewhere.

JOHN (SIGNS WITH WEAKNESS) Yes....I know.

OGILBEE But what'll you do! Where'll you go?

JOHN I've been thinking about that, Ogilbee. This country needs the steam boat and....

OGILBEE Yes?

JOHN Well....well, why shouldn't the country finance my boat?

OGILBEE What?

JOHN Ogilbee....I'm going to appeal to Congress for money.

OGILBEE Are you crazy?

JOHN (CHUCKLING) Completely, Ogilbee. Yes, I'm completely and positively a lunatic. (DESPERATELY IN EARNEST) But why shouldn't Congress help me! Can't you see I've a great idea here. Something that'll help develop America into the richest....most marvelous land on earth! (FADE) (SHOUTING) Why shouldn't Congress help me!

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE

SOUND (FADE IN) MURMUR OF SEVERAL MEN IN A ROOM.

REED (CLEARS THROAT) Gentlemen....let us come to the business at hand. (CUT MURMUR)

KING Quite so, Mr. Reed. Quite so.

REED We three....Mr. King (KING CLEARS HIS THROAT), Mr. Henry and myself are met here....as a Congressional Committeeto consider the petition of one, John Fitch, for aid from the Congress in building a boat powered by steam.

HENRY According to these letters, Mr. Reed....the person, Fitch, is very highly recommended.

KING Quite so. Quite so. Accompanying these plans were letters from Dr. John Ewing, the Provost of the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Smith, Provost of Princeton College.

REED (CLEANS THROAT) And both Dr. Ewing and Dr. Smith seem to er.....er have faith in the practicability of the Fitch contraption.

HENRY They seem to think this steam boat thing will actually work.

REED Are you suggesting, Mr. Henry, that we recommend to the Congress the er....er....

KING (INTERRUPTING QUICKLY) Have you gentleman studied the er petition Mr. Fitch, himself, has made to us?

REED Well er....

KING (BREAKING IN QUICKLY) Hereis a copy of it. Allow me to read it to you.

REED Very well, Mr. King.

KING (READING) "The subscriber begs leave to lay at the feet of Congress, an attempt he has made to facilitate the internal Navigation of the United States, adapted especially to the Waters of the Mississippi. The machine...."

REED (INTERRUPTING) So Mr. Fitch wants to....er develop the west! (CLEANS HIS THROAT SIGNIFICANTLY) The Mississippi Gentlemen....such a venture....if Congress should undertake it....would bring the Government into conflict with er certain eastern men who....er wish to keep trade and commerce in their section of this....er great country.

KING As a matter of fact, Mr. Reed, I've consulted several persons of high station about this matter of Fitch and

KING
(CONT'D)

his steam boat. Among them Mr. Harry Lee of Virginia and General Washington. Both agree that er....er it would be unwise to er....er....

REED

Exactly! This steam boat would put the eastern shippers out of business. So er....I suggest we er....er table the matter.

HENRY

But gentlemen! That sounds illogical!

KING

The east doesn't think so, Mr. Henry!

HENRY

But....

KING

(INTERRUPTING QUICKLY) So I am in agreement with Mr. Reed. (PAUSE) Let us table this Fitch matter.

MUSIC

MUSICAL BRIDGE

JOHN

(PAUSE IN) The stupid fools! Just a set of ignorant boys!

OGILBEE

Well, John....that's that! Congress has turned you down. It won't help you. Now....what will you do?

JOHN

(ANGRILY) I've carried my plans and designs to the Minister from Spain, Ogilbee. He seems interested in my boat. I've an appointment with him (PAUSE) Perhaps he will....

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

GARDOQUI

(PAUSE IN) (SPEAKS ENGLISH WITH A SPANISH ACCENT) (PLEADING COURTEOUSLY) But....Senor Fitch!....we are sincere! Spain will give you all the money you need! And I, personally....Don Diego Gardoqui....have such faith in your boat that I would gladly....

JOHN (BREAKING IN) But the proposition you make, sir! The terms are....are not in keeping with my ideals.

GARDQUY But, Sencr Fitch....your Mississippi will be developed. Spain and your Country are on the verge of a treaty covering this region. Before long....Spain will have the sole right to conduct trade and commerce on the Mississippi.

JOHN Yes, I know. But....if I accept money from your Country, sir,....it will mean....according to your terms....that Spain will become absolute and sole owner of my invention. Not only will you control it....but you will have the sole right to manufacture steam boats.

GARDQUY Sencr Fitch....I understand your patriotism. But have you forgotten?...your United States refused to help you.

JOHN No matter, sir. I cannot sell my invention to a foreign Government. (PAISE) I just can't do it, sir.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

SOUND (AWAY BUT NEARER THAN IN PREVIOUS SCENE AND SUSTAIN DURING FOLLOWING NARRATION) CHUGGING OF STEAM BOAT.

COLLIER (PAISE IN) Well, John Fitch walked out on the Spanish Minister's offer. Yes, John Fitch was a true American. But his patriotism didn't get him the money he needed to develop his idea. Yet, he kept on trying. He even petitioned Benjamin Franklin's assistance, asking that gentleman to intercede with Congress. Franklin was but

OSILBEE
(CONT'D)

mildly interested. Then....John got the State of New Jersey to pass a law giving him the exclusive right to operate a steam boat on that State's streams and rivers.

On the basis of this law John was able to form a joint
(FADE)
stock company to finance the building of a steam boat.

MUSIC

MUSICAL BRIDGE.

JOHN

(PAISE IN) Well, Ogilbee! I've the money at last! And a Dutchman, Harry Voight, in Philadelphia....

VOIGHT

(AWAY) Well! Who was talking about me?

JOHN

Oh, Come in, Harry!

SOUND

(AWAY) DOOR CLOSING.

VOIGHT

(COMING TO HIDE) Well! Then do we go to work on der steam boat?

JOHN

Right away! Right away, Harry! (ASIDE TO OSILBEE)
Harry has been recommended to me as the very best mechanic in the United States today!

OSILBEE

Is that so?

VOIGHT

Yahi Yahi Dot's so. Und right now, Mr. Fitch, I tell you der Ideen Benjamin Franklin give to you about der engine ain't no good.

JOHN

Hi!

VOIGHT

Ye. We start vid a small model. Den we build der boat und put der engine in dot. And den we build a bigger engine und a bigger boat. Und den we let folks see it!

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

SOUND (FADE IN) CHUGGLING OF STEAM ENGINE (A DIFFERENT PITCH)
(SUSTAIN)

OSILMER Well, John? So this is it?

JOHN At last Ogilboos!

VOIGHT Der model worked. Ve hope dis von will work, too.

SOUND (AWAY) (FADE IN) JEERS OF CROWD. (SUSTAIN)

OSILMER You've a big crowd watching you, John. You've got to
Make good now. You've got to!

JOHN Well....here goes. Blow the whistle, Harry!

SOUND BLAST ON A TIN HORN. INCREASE ROAR OF ENGINE.

JOHN The throttle, Harry. The throttle!

VOIGHT Already....I give it der throttle!

SOUND EXPLOSIVE BANGS AND TINY NOISES.

OSILMER (SHOUTING) What's the matter, John? What's the matter?

JOHN (YELLING) I don't know! I don't know!

VOIGHT (YELLING) Der heest' vent start! It vent start!

JOHN (YELLING) Oh Lord! And right before that crowd too!

SOUND (AWAY) JEERS & GUFFAWS FROM CROWD. AD-LIB: "WELL?
WHY DON'T YOU SAIL AWAY? AIN'T THE DELAWARE BIG ENOUGH?
WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK....STEAM?"

JOHN (YELLING) Alright, you fools! You'll see! You'll see!
Just you wait! John Fitch ain't through yet! John Fitch's
boat will sail yet! And it'll be powered by steam too!

SOUND INCREASE BANGS & TINY NOISES OF STEAM ENGINE. (AWAY)
CROWD'S JEERS & CAT-CALLS. (SUSTAIN)

JOHN (YELLING) More pressure, Harry! More pressure!

VOIGHT (YELLING) Der throttle is wide open already!

OGILBEE (YELLING) Why doesn't the boat move, John? What's the matter with it?

JOHN (YELLING) I don't know! I don't know, Ogilbee!

CROWD (AWAY) (AD-LINING) "What's holding your boat back, Fitch? Steam?" "Ain't The Delaware big enough for yer tub, Fitch?"

JOHN (YELLING AT CROWD) Shut up, ye blithering fools!

CROWD (AWAY) (AD-LINING) "Get your oars, Fitch?"

JOHN (YELLING) Throw the throttle open, Harry! Give it more pressure!

VOIGHT (YELLING) Vat's der use! Vat's der use!

JOHN (YELLING) Do somethin', Harry! Do somethin'!

VOIGHTA (YELLING) Tah! Tah! I do something alright! I get off dis crazy thing and go back to my watch-making business. Dat's where I belong!

JOHN (SHOUTING ANGRILY) What's the matter with you, Harry Voight? Are you givin' up now?

VOIGHT (SHOUTING) Der devil with you, John Fitch! You go to blazes! You hear dat! You go to blazes! Harry Voight is through wid you and your steam boat too!

JOHN (YELLING) Alright! Alright!, you foolish Dutchman! Get out! Get out!

SOUND RIING UP ENGINE VOICES & CROWD'S JEERING & PAKE AS FITCH
REPEATS: "GET OUT! GET OUT!"

SCENETHEATICAL MUSIC.

OGILBEE

(PAUSE IN) Stop pitying yourself, John. You've done enough brooding for tonight.

JOHN

(HE'S QUITE DISCOURAGED) What else is there to do?

Aw Ogilbee! (SIGHS) What else is there to do?

OGILBEE

Think! That's what to do! Think! Find out what was wrong with your engine today. And then think of a way to correct it.

JOHN

But everything's gone. The stockholders have quit me cold. They won't lend me another cent after this. Not another penny. And....Harry....he quit me too.

OGILBEE

I haven't quit, John. (DESPERATELY IN EARNEST) Look, John!....you've got me believing your way. This country needs the steam boat. You said so yourself. You said.... this Country is a vast, roving land of great forests and mighty rivers. And out there in the west are furs and gold and copper and the Lord knows what else of tremendous value. And John!....it is!....just that!....all that!

JOHN

(AFTER SLIGHT PAUSE) Ogilbee....call the Tavern-Keeper. Maybe a cup of coffee....

OGILBEE

(SHOUTING AT FITCH) John!....what was wrong with your steam boat today? Think, man! Think!

JOHN

(TURNING IT OVER IN HIS MIND) What was wrong? The engine was....fairly well put together. But the boat didn't move. It didn't move! The paddles on that chain....under the boat. Under the boat?

COILBEE Yes, John? (SLIGHT PAUSE) Well?

JOHN I've got it, Coilbee! I've got it!

COILBEE Yes!

JOHN Let's.... (VERY EXCITED) Let's go tell Harry!

COILBEE It's after midnight, John, and....

JOHN No matter! We'll get Harry out of bed....even...even if we have to set his house on fire! Come on! (GOING AWAY) Come on Coilbee!

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

VOICHT (PAUSE IN) You got me out of the bed in the middle of the night and dan....

JOHN (INTERUPTING) But Harry! Think of it! These paddles were all wrong! If we put 'em on an endless chain either around the boat or behind the boat.... Aw Harry! That's it! That's it!

VOICHT (WARMLY) Yeh! Yeh! (ENTHUSIASTIC) Yeh, John Fitch! Det'll do it! And I'll help you! I'll help you!

(PAUSE)

But wet about der stock holders?

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

SOUND (PAUSE IN) AMONG VOICES OF SEVERAL MEN.

WELLS (PAUSE IN) Henny? (BITTERLY) Henny! You've got some affrontory, Mr. Fitch!

THORNTON Asking us for more money....after what happened to that tub of yours we financed....is more than affrontory! It's.... it's the savings of a lunatic!

JOHN But, gentlemen! You don't understand. I'm offering you the chance to recover your losses.

WELLS Are you?

JOHN I want to prove....

THORNTON (INTERRUPTED) Take your offer to another batch of fools! We've come to our senses!

JOHN (WITH OVERWHELMING AUTHORITY AND DIGNITY) Listen to me, gentlemen! My new plans....when properly put together in a decent and adequately equipped shop....will shill you with amusement! I tell you....I can build a boat....a steam boat....that will travel on water at the rate of seven miles an hour. And you're going to buy more stock in this venture so that I can prove to you and the world that it can be done! Do you hear me?

THORNTON The only money I'll give you will be the....the fare to some place where I'll never lay eyes on you again! Europe or any other place you name that'll take you so far you won't be able to pester me with....

JOHN (BREAKING IN) Alright, Mr. Thornton! Let's have that money then! Let me have it....and we'll both take a trip.... on a steambent!

THORNTON I didn't mean....Oh! what's the use? You're crazy!

JOHN Thanks, Mr. Thornton, for looking at it from my point of view. Now, what about the rest of you gentlemen?

THORNTON (SPUTTERING ANGRILY) Why you god-darned child of a wild moon! I haven't promised....

JOHN (BREAKING IN) It ain't the moon that's turned my head, Mr. Thornton! It's the vision I have of steamboats on this country's rivers....steamboats even on the ocean.... bringing trade and passengers to a land that needs commerce and new people!

THORNTON Fitch you're....

WELLS (BREAKING IN) What's the use, Thornton. We might as well eat the devil as drink his broth! We're already in this venture. Might as well stay in.

THORNTON (SIGHING) Very well. (PAUSE) But don't ask for too much money, Fitch!

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

O'GILLEE (PAUSE IN) How do matters stand, John?

JOHN (GLIMPSEFUL & EXCITED) Ask Harry! Ask Harry!

VOIGHT Der new boat is finished, O'gilbee!

O'GILLEE Well....after the stockholders advanced you two that last sum....it certainly didn't take you long to.... (BREAKS OFF IN AWE) Finished!

VOIGHT Yeh! Yeh! And she's a beauty too!

O'GILLEE And what about commercial exploitation, John? Have you enough money to attempt it?

JOHN Now I had to plead to get it. Had to interest a new crop of stock holders before I did.

O'GILLEE But you did get the money?

JOHN Yes. And tomorrow....we begin regular commercial trips from Philadelphia....with a stop at Burlington....to Trenton. (PAUSE) Lordi....I hope we're successful.... this time.

MUSICMUSICAL BRIDGE.SOUND(FADE IN) STEAMBOAT UNDER WAY. (UP & UNDER A SUSTAIN)

1ST MAN

(FADE IN) Imagine it! Crazy John Fitch has his steamboat working....at last!

2ND MAN

Don't I know it! My first trip on it though.

1ST MAN

This is my second. But the steamboat won't last.

2ND MAN

Geez you're right. Of course this thing is faster'n boats with sails. But what's all the hurry about?

1ST MAN

Sure! That's what I say. Besides it cost more to ship on Fitch's steamboat. Folks with goods to sell ain't interested in paying more to get their stuff somewhere fast. Time don't matter....long as you get your goods to the market.

2ND MAN

One trip is worth the fare though. Folks like the novelty. A boat run by steam! By gum!...what'll they think of next?

WOMAN

(ANGRILY) I don't know! But this contraption is filthy! Just look at my dress....dirty as can be. Why!...the ashes from that old wheezing steam engine....besides frightening the life out of you ruin everything you wear. (FADE) Fitch will certainly have to pay me for this!SOUNDSTEAM ENGINE UP & FADE.MUSICMUSICAL BRIDGE.

JOHN

(FADE IN) Madam....we'll be glad to refund the fare but....

WOMAN

(BREAKING IN ANGRILY) That isn't enough! The ashes from

MURPHY
(CONT'D)

your steam engine ruined my dress. And you'll pay me for a new dress. (GOING AWAY) I'd ten times rather take the stage coach to Trenton than your steamboat anyway! (AWAY) But you're going to pay me for ruining my dress! Do you hear!

SOUND

(AWAY) DOOR SLAMS.

JOHN

Now!

VOIGHT

We've got to improve der next boat, John.

JOHN

(WEARILY) If only that were all, Harry.

VOIGHT

Yah! Yah! I know. This boat is losing money for us.

JOHN

(EXASPERATED) Why? Our boat is faster than the commercial crafts with sailes! But we've got less business than....

(SIGHS) Oh!....it's beyond me.

VOIGHT

Folks just ain't interested in speed. Not's der matter!

JOHN

Don't they know....there'll come a day when speed.... gettin goods to market quickly....

VOIGHT

(INTERRUPTING) No, they don't know. And you can't tell 'em!

JOHN

Well....we've a contract to run a boat on the Ohio given us by the State of Virginia. Maybe the people along the Ohio will be glad to have fast water transportation. Besides....this new boat will be an improvement on the old one. No more passengers complaining of ashes.

VOIGHT

Yah! But we lose der contract if we don't get der boat

(FADING)

ready by November Ninth.

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

SOUND (FADE IN) STEAMBOAT UNDER WAY. (UP & UNDER & SUSTAIN)

JOHN Well, Ogilbee!....how do you like out new boat?

OGILBEE She runs fine, John. You ought to do well on the Ohio with a boat like this!

JOHN Harry and I certainly got her built in a hurry! We have to deliver her to the State of Virginia by next week though.....or we lose our contract.

OGILBEE Yes, I know. You can't afford to lose that contract.

VOICHT (COMING TO HIM) John.....we better take the boat back to der dock now. I don't like the looks of der sky.

JOHN Kind of cloudy, eh? Well.....we've tested her pretty thoroughly. Night as well take her back to port.

SOUND (CUTS TO JOHN'S LAST LINE) THUNDER.

VOICHT Yab! (FADE) And right away too!

SOUND STEAM ENGINES UP THUNDER UP (FADE)

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

SOUND (FADE IN) STEAMBOAT UNDER WAY. & STORM-THUNDER-RAIN---
WIND (UP & UNDER & SUSTAIN)

OGILBEE (FADE IN) (YELLING OVER STORM) Think we'll make it, John?

JOHN (YELLING) We've got to! We've got to!

VOICHT (YELLING) Der storm is getting worse! Und we're trying to make headway against der wind!

JOHN (YELLING) Give her engine more pressure, Harry!

VOIGHT Not good will dot do?

JOHN (YELLING) What?

VOIGHT (YELLING) I say der vind is too much! Ve better try und ride out der storm!

JOHN (YELLING) Alright! Anything! Only save this boat! Every penny I own is in this boat!

OGILBEE (YELLING) Careful! What's that ahead?

VOIGHT (YELLING) Rocks! Steer clear, John! Steer clear of the rocks!

JOHN (YELLING) Lord! The current is sucking us in! Help me here at the wheel, Ogilbee!

OGILBEE (YELLING) Alright! Now....pull! Pull! Pull!

JOHN (YELLING) It's no use! Jump! Jump!

SOUND TERRIFIC CRASH. WIND & RAIN & THUNDER UP & FARE

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE.

OGILBEE (PAUSE IN) (AWAY CALLING) Hey there! Wait a minute!

(PAUSE) (COMING TO NILE) Why, John Fitch! I haven't seen you since....

JOHN (DISCOURAGED, HEARTY) I know. Not since we were lucky enough to save our necks after my boat ran on the rocks.

OGILBEE Tell me, John! What have you been doing? Where have you been?

JOHN In France. I went there to try and get enough money toto....

OGILBEE Did you....did you get more money, John?

JOHN Look at me! Does it look like I got money in France.... or anywhere else? (SIGHS) When I got to France things looked fairly bright....for awhile. Then....before I knew it....France was in the midst of a revolution. I just managed to get back to America. Worked my way back as a sailor. That's why you see me in rags, Ogilbee.

OGILBEE What are you going to do now? Where're you going, John?

JOHN I'm on my way to Bardston, Kentucky. I've a little land out there and....and I'm sick....sick of the world.... sick of myself....

OGILBEE John!....you're not quitting?

JOHN Why not? Everything's gone, Ogilbee. And....and I'm just a failure.

OGILBEE Not to me. Not to me! And you mark my word! One day there'll be a steamboat on every major stream and river in the United States! Boats....run by steam....will even come to cross the ocean!

JOHN Now true! But by then....men will have forgotten John Fitch. (GOING AWAY) Goodbye, Ogilbee.

OGILBEE (CALLING) Wait a minute, John. Isn't there something I can do? Are you hungry? (PAUSE) Let me.... John!

MUSIC MUSICAL BRIDGE

OGILBEE (PAUSE IN) Tell me, Doctor....how did it happen?

DOCTOR I took care of him....during all his illness. But the man simply hadn't the will to live.

OGILBEE Yes, when he left here....John Fitch was the most discouraged and depressed man I've ever seen. He hadn't even enough money to buy food. But what caused his....

DOCTOR Well....his lungs were in a bad way.

OGILBEE I heard he'd been having lung trouble.

DOCTOR They'd progressed to the point where Fitch was in considerable pain.

OGILBEE I see.

DOCTOR I'd been giving him pills to ease the pain....pills containing an opium compound.

OGILBEE Yes?

DOCTOR Unknown to me....to anybody....Fitch began to save those pills until he had enough to kill a horse. Well, Mr. Ogilbee, John Fitch committed suicide.

MUSICMUSICAL BRIDGE.SOUND

(GOING AWAY AS WE FADE IN) STEAMBOAT. CROWD CHEERING AND JEERING. (UP & UNDER & SUSTAIN)

OGILBEE (FADE IN) That, Mister, is the story of the first real steamboat and its real inventor.

MAN Quite a story, stranger!

OGILBEE You and I have stood here on the banks of the Hudson.... this being the 20th day of August, 1807,....watching the coming of Robert Fulton's Clermont. The crowd cheers a

OSILEEE
(Cont'd)

bit....jeers a lot....for men's minds are slow to grasp
the point....slow to weigh real values. But....mark my
word!....their children will take the steamboat as you
and I take the stage coach....as a matter of fact. (SIGNS)
I've but one regret: When time comes for all to cheer
....the crowd will cheer the wrong man. They will have
forgotten....John Fitch.

MUSIC

ANNOUNCER

THREE "A" UP & UNDER
